



Federal Way Public Schools

September 16, 2013

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Modernizing the E-Rate Program for Schools and Libraries, WC Docket 13-184

Dear Ms. Dortch,

For the past 14 years, I have worked for Federal Way Public Schools, striving to provide the best technical environment that we can to support the teaching and learning that is occurring every day in our 38 schools. After years of low-speed data connections over T1's, we are privileged to be using high-speed leased fiber through CenturyLink due to continued funding through the E-rate program. I honestly do not know how school districts can handle bandwidth needs of today's Internet opportunities without high-speed connections that are lacking around the country.

We are engaging students through the use of multiple online resources like Google Apps and Khan Academy as well as district assessments hosted at Renaissance Learning and myON Reader that would not be possible if we have to control our school bandwidth for basics like student records and financial systems.

This letter offers comments related to the FCC's effort to modernize the E-rate program.

We believe:

- Universal access to broadband is necessary to meet school reform and improvement goals. These goals include the development of K-12 programming able to prepare all students for college and 21st century careers.
- The demand for access to broadband is growing rapidly beyond the ability of schools to provide it, despite the cost advantage possible through the E-rate discount.

- A modernized E-rate program must be less burdensome for schools, and aligned more effectively to current and future K-12 education priorities. There is also a growing need to help schools plan and budget for technology.
- Today's demand for the cost benefit of the E-rate program exceeds available funding. Clearly, the amount of money available for schools must increase to meet state and local needs.

We agree that it is time to modernize the E-rate program and support positive change that benefits K-12 schools. We encourage you to move quickly as you complete your deliberations.

If you have any further questions about our district, please do not hesitate to contact me at (253) 945-2117.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim Crawford', with a stylized, flowing script.

Tim Crawford
Co-Director ITS